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Serial No. 09/998,921

Atty Dkt: 2380-566
Art Unit: 2681

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

A code division multiple access communication system comprises a source base station (BS_S), a destination base station (BS_D)having a synchronization searcher (S), and a time position estimator (100) which establishes a start position of a synchronization search window for the synchronization searcher of the destination station. In accordance with an aspect of the present ~~invention~~ system, the time position estimator establishes the start position (SP) of the synchronization search window based on a statistical estimate of the time position at which other mobile stations previously initiated handover from the source base station to the destination base station. In a non-limiting example embodiment, the time position estimator uses an average time position (T_{new})at which other mobile stations previously initiated handover from the source base station to the destination base station as the statistical estimate. In an example illustrated embodiment, the time position estimator is situated at a radio network control node (26) of the code division multiple access communication system, but can be located at other nodes.